

SPI

A woman having an alabaster box of ointment of *Spikenard*,
brake and poured it on his head. *Mar. xiv. 3.*

He cast into the pile bundles of myrrh, and sheaves of *Spikenard*,
enriching it with every spicy shrub. *Speccator.*

SPILL, *n. s.* [*spillen*, Dutch.]
1. A small thiver of wood, or thin bar of iron.

The oysters, besides gathering by hand, have a peculiar
dredge, which is a thick strong net, fastened to three *spills* of
iron, and drawn at the boat's stern. *Carew.*

Have near the bung-hole a little vent-hole, stopp'd with a
spill. *Mortimer.*

2. A small quantity of money. I know not whence derived.

The bishops, who consecrated this ground, were wont to
have a *spill* or sportule from the credulous laity. *Affix.*

To *SPILL*, *v. a.* [*spilan*, Saxon; *spillen*, Dutch; *spila*,
Icelandic.]

1. To shed; to lose by shedding.

Be satisfied, dear God, with our true blood,
Which, as thou know'st, unjustly must be *spilt*. *Shaksp.*

Friend or brother,
He forfeits his own blood that *spills* another. *Shak. Timon.*

Themselves exact their cruelty,
And I constrain'd am this blood to *spill*. *Daniel's Civil War.*

They having *spill'd* much blood, and done much waste,
Subduing nations; and atchiev'd thereby
Fame in the world, high titles, and rich prey,
Shall change their course to pleasure, ease, and sloth. *Milton.*

Scheuch's blood, by his false brother *spilt*,
I have reveng'd. *Denham.*

Medea must not draw her mouth-ring knives,
And *spill* her children's blood upon the stage. *Roscommon.*

Orbellan did disgrace
With treach'rous deeds our mighty mother's race;
And to revenge his blood, so justly *spilt*,
What is it less than to partake his guilt? *Dryden.*

Nor the Centaurs tale
Be here repeated; how, with lust and wine
Inflam'd, they fought and *spilt* their drunken souls
At feasting hour. *Philips.*

2. To destroy; to mischief.

Thus is our thought with pain of thistle tilled,
Thus be our noblest parts dried up with sorrow;
Thus is our mind with too much minding *spilled*. *Sidney.*

Why are ye so fierce and cruel?
Is it because your eyes have power to kill?
Then know that mercy is the Mighty's jewel,
And greater glory think to have than *spill*. *Spenser.*

Thou all-shaking thunder,
Crack nature's mould, all germin's *spill* at once
That make ingrateful man. *Shaksp. King Lear.*

Be not angry with these fires;
For then their threats will kill me:
Nor look too kind on my desires;
For then my hopes will *spill* me. *Ben. Johnson.*

All bodies are with other bodies fill'd;
But she receives both heav'n and earth together:
Nor are their forms by rash encounters *spill'd*;
For there they stand, and neither toucheth either. *Davies.*

3. To throw away.

This fight shall damp the raging ruffian's breast,
The poison *spill*, and half-drawn sword arrest. *Tickell.*

To *SPILL*, *v. n.*

1. To waste; to be lavish.

Thy father bids thee spare, and chides for *spilling*. *Sidney.*

2. To be shed; to be lost by being shed.

He was so topfull of himself, that he let it *spill* on all the
company: he spoke well indeed, but he spoke too long. *Watts.*

SPILLER, *n. s.* [*I know not whence derived.*] A kind of fish-
ing line.

In harbour they are taken by *spillers* made of a cord, to
which divers shorter are tied at a little distance, and to each
of these a hook is fastened with a bait: this *spiller* they sink in
the sea where those fishes have their accustomed haunt. *Carew.*

SPILTH, *n. s.* [*from spill*.] Any thing poured out or wasted.

Our vaults have wept with drunken *spilth* of wine. *Shaksp.*

To *SPIN*, *v. a.* preter. *spun* or *span*; part. *spun*. [*spinnan*, Sax.
spinnen, Dutch.]

1. To draw out into threads.

The women *spin* goats hair. *Ex. xxxv. 26.*

2. To form threads by drawing out and twisting any filamentous
matter.

You would be another Penelope; yet they say all the yarn
she *spun*, in Ulysses's absence, did but fill Ithaca full of moths.

Shakspere's Coriolanus.

The fates but only *spin* the coarser clue;
The finest of the wool is left for you. *Dryden.*

3. To protract; to draw out.

By one delay after another they *spin* out their whole lives,
till there's no more future left before 'em. *L'Estrange.*

If his cure lies among the lawyers let nothing be said
against intangling property, *spinning* out causes, and squeezing
clients. *Collier.*

Why should Rome fall a moment ere her time?
No, let us draw her term of freedom out
In its full length, and *spin* it to the last. *Addison's Cato.*

4. To form by degrees; to draw out tediously.

I passed lightly over many particulars, on which learned and
witty men might *spin* out large volumes. *Digby.*

Men of large thoughts and quick apprehensions are not to
expect any thing here, but what, being *spun* out of my own
coarse thoughts, is fitted to men of my own size. *Lake.*

The lines are weak, another's pleas'd to say;
Lord Fanny *spins* a thousand such a day. *Pope.*

To *SPIN*, *v. n.*

1. To exercise the art of spinning.

We can fling our legs and arms upwards and downwards,
backwards, forwards, and round, as they that *spin*. *Mor.*

Ten thousand falks their various blossoms spread;
Peaceful and lowly in their native soil,
They neither know to *spin*, nor care to toil. *Prior.*

For this Alcides learn'd to *spin*;
His club laid down, and lion's skin. *Prior.*

2. [*Spingare*, Italian.] To stream out in a thread or small
current.

Together furiously they ran,
That to the ground came horse and man;
The blood out of their helmets *spans*,
So sharp were their encounters. *Drayton's Nymphid.*

3. To move round as a spindle.

Whether the sun, predominant in heav'n
Rise on the earth, or earth rise on the sun,
He from the East his flaming road begins,
Or the from West her silent course advance
With inoffensive pace, that *spinning* sleeps
On her soft axle, while the paces e'en
And bears these soft with the smooth air along,
Solicit not thy thoughts. *Milton's Paradise Lost, l. viii.*

As when a shipwright stands his workmen o'er,
Who ply the wimble some huge beam to bore;
Urg'd on all hands it nimbly *spins* about,
The grain deep piercing till it scoops it out. *Pope.*

SPINACH, *n. s.* [*spinachia*, Latin.] A plant.

SPINAGE, *n. s.* [*spinacia*, Latin.] A plant.

It hath an apetalous flower, consisting of many stamina in-
cluded in the flower-cup, which are produced in spikes upon
the male plants which are barren; but the embryos are pro-
duced from the wings of the leaves on the female plants,
which afterward become roundish or angular seeds, which in
some sorts, have thorns adhering to them. *Miller.*

Spinage is an excellent herb crude, or boiled. *Mortimer.*

SPINAL, *adj.* [*spina*, Latin.] Belonging to the back bone.

All *spinal*, or such as have no ribs, but only a back bone,
are somewhat analogous thereto. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

Those solids are entirely nervous, and proceed from the
brain, and *spinal* marrow, which by their bulk appear suffi-
cient to furnish all the stamina or threads of the solid parts. *Art.*

Descending careles from his couch, the fall
Lux'd his joint neck and *spinal* marrow bruise'd. *Philips.*

SPINDLE, *n. s.* [*spinell*, pmbel, Saxon.]

1. The pin by which the thread is formed, and on which it is
conglomerated.

Bodies fibrous by moisture incorporate with other thread,
especially if there be a little wreathing; as appeareth by the
twisting of thread, and twirling about of *spindles*. *Bacon.*

Sing to those that hold the vital fibres,
And turn the adamant *spindle* round
On which the fate of gods and men is wound. *Milton.*

Upon a true repentance, God is not so fatally tied to the
spindle of absolute reprobation as not to keep his promise, and
deal merciful pardons. *Dr. Jasper Maier.*

So Pallas from the dusty field withdrew,
And when imperial Jove appear'd in view,
Resum'd her female arts, the *spindle* and the clew;
Forgot the scepter she so well had sway'd,
And with that mildness, she had rul'd, obey'd. *Stepney.*

Do you take me for a Roman matron,
Bred tamely to the *spindle* and the loom? *A. Phillips.*

2. A long slender stalk.

The *spindles* must be tied up, and, as they grow in height,
rods set by them, left by their bending they should break. *Mor.*

3. A repose yourself, if those *spindle* legs of yours will carry you
to the next chair. *Dryden's Spanish Friar.*

The marriage of one of our heiresses with an eminent coun-
tier gave us *spindle* shanks and cramps. *Fauler.*

To *SPINDLE*, *v. n.* [*from the noun*.] To shoot into a long
small stalk.

Another ill accident in drought is the *spindling* of the corn,
which with us is rare, but in hotter countries common; inso-
much as the word calamity was first derived from calamus,
when the corn could not get out of the stalk. *Bacon.*

When the flowers begin to *spindle*, all but one or two of
the biggest, at each root, should be nipped off. *Mortimer.*

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SPINDLESHANKED, *adj.* [*spindle* and *shank*.] Having small legs.

Her lawyer is a little ravelled, *spindleshanked* gentleman. *Addi.*

SPINDLETREE, *n. s.* [*Prickwood*.] A plant.

SPINE, *n. s.* [*spina*, Latin.] The back bone.

The rapier entered his right side, reaching within a finger's
breadth of the *spine*. *Wifeman's Surgery.*

There are who think the marrow of a man,
Which in the *spine*, while he was living, ran;
When dead, the pith corrupted, will become
A make, and hiss within the hollow tomb. *Dryden.*

SPINEL, *n. s.* A sort of mineral. *Spinel*-ruby is of a bright
ruby red; it is softer than the rock or balois ruby. *Woodward.*

SPINET, *n. s.* [*spinette*, French.] A small harpichord, an
instrument with keys.

When mis delights in her *spinnets*,
A fiddler may his fortune get. *Swift.*

SPINIFEROUS, *adj.* [*spina* and *fero*, Latin.] Bearing thorns.

SPINNER, *n. s.* [*from spin*.]

1. One killed in spinning.

A practised *spinner* shall spin a pound of wool worth two
shillings for expense. *Grant.*

2. A garden spider with long jointed legs.

Weaving spiders come not here: *Shakspere.*

Hence you long leg'd *spinners*, hence. *Shakspere.*

SPINNING WHEEL, *n. s.* [*from spin*.] The wheel by which, since
the difuse of the rock, the thread is drawn.

My *spinning wheel* and rake, *Gay.*

Let Susan keep for her dear sister's sake.

SPINNY, *adj.* I suppose *spindly*, *stender*. A barbarous word.

They plow it early in the year, and then there will come
some *spiny* grass that will keep it from scalding in summer. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

SPINOSITY, *n. s.* [*spinus*, Latin.] Crabbedness; thorny or
briary perplexity.

Philosophy consisted of ought but dry *spinitics*, lean no-
tions, and endless alterations about things of nothing. *Glauc.*

SPINOUS, *adj.* [*spinus*, Latin.] Thorny; full of thorns.

SPINSTER, *n. s.* [*from spin*.]

1. A woman that spins.

The *spinster* and the knitters in the sun,
And the free maids that weave their thread with bones,
Do use to chant it. *Shakspere's Twelfth Night.*

2. [*In law*.] The general term for a girl or maiden woman.

One Michael Caffio,
That never set a quadron in the field,
Nor the division of a battle knows
More than a *spinster*. *Shakspere's Othello.*

I desire that a yearly annuity of twenty pounds shall be
paid to Rebecca Dingley of the city of Dublin, *spinster*, dur-
ing her life. *Swift.*

SPINSTRY, *n. s.* [*from spinster*.] The work of spinning.

SPINX, *adj.* [*spina*, Latin.] Thorny; briary; perplexed;
difficult; troublesome.

The first attempts are always imperfect; much more in so
difficult and *spiny* an affair as to force a subject. *Digby.*

SPINACLE, [*spinaculum*, Latin.] A breathing hole; a vent;
a small aperture.

Most of these *spinacles* perpetually send forth fire, more or
less. *Woodward.*

SPIRAL, *adj.* [*spirale*, Fr. from *spira*, Latin.] Curve; wind-
ing; circularly involved.

The process of the fibres in the ventricles, running in *spi-
ral* lines from the tip to the base of the heart, shews that the
fibrole of the heart is a muscular contraction, as a pulse is
that by drawing the strings contrary ways. *Ray.*

Why earth or sun diurnal stages keep?
In *spiral* tracks why through the zodiack creep? *Blackmore.*

The intestinal tube affects a straight, instead of a *spiral* cy-
linder. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

SPIRALLY, *adv.* [*from spiral*.] In a spiral form.

The fibres are composed of two orders of fibres running cir-
cularly or *spirally* from base to tip. *Ray on the Creation.*

SPIRE, *n. s.* [*spira*, Latin; *spira*, Italian; *spira*, Swedish.]

1. A curve line; any thing wreathed or contorted; a curl; a
twist; a wreath.

His head
Crested aloft, and carbuncle his eyes;
With burnish'd neck of verdant gold, erect
Amidst his circling *spires*, that on the grafs
Floated redundant. *Milton.*

A dragon's fiery form belied the god,
Sublime on radiant *spires* he rode. *Dryden.*

Air seems to consist of *spires* contorted into small spheres,
through the interstices of which the particles of light may free-
ly pass; it is light, the solid substance of the *spires* being very
small in proportion to the spaces they take up. *Cbeys.*

2. Any thing growing up taper; a round pyramid, so called per-
haps because a line drawn round and round in less and less
circles, would be a *spire*; a people.

With glist'ning *spires* and pinnacles adorn'd. *Milton.*

He cannot make one *spire* of grass more or less than he hath
made. *Hale's Orig. of Mankind.*

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